



A message from our President...



Karey Nalle Oddo
WSL President

Thoughts from a quarantine outpost....

What strange times! Hoping this newsletter finds you and your families at home, safe and healthy. With all this down time, I have been thinking about how non-profits will continue to fundraise during this coronavirus situation and the economic environment we find ourselves in.

For twenty-one years, I have enjoyed fundraising for Austin non-profits. For some of you Gold **WSL** members, that's just a blip on the radar compared to your experience!

Like most of you, I've loved supporting a variety of different 501(c)(3) causes. I can safely say that, unless you are over 102 years old and you survived the 1918 Spanish Flu, none of us have had to raise money during a world-wide pandemic. There are no basic, fundamental fundraising rules in place for this situation.

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MISSION

The mission of the Women's Symphony League of Austin is to provide service and financial support for the Austin Symphony Orchestra and its programs, and offer educational opportunities for the children and the community to further develop an appreciation of music.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." - Henry Ford

Thank you to the 2019-2020 WSL Board of Directors and all of the WSL Members. It's been a pleasure working with you. KO

Exciting news about WSL fundraisers

Save the date! The 66th Annual Jewel Ball will be held on **Saturday, February 13, 2021**. The ball will be held in the beautiful **Congressional Ballroom** at the **Fairmont Austin** hotel.

For more than six weeks, the leadership of the **WSL** considered all possibilities in order to have a successful **Jewel Ball** in this fiscal year. We concluded that this February date would allow the **WSL** and the community to adjust to the effects of recent pandemic. I would like to personally thank the fabulous **Jewel Ball Chairs, Stacey Brewer** and **Meredith Wood**, for their hard work.



Jene Bearse,
WSL President Elect

Internal timelines for the **Jewel Ball**, such as the registration of **Junior Royalty** and **Visiting Jewels**, will be adjusted also. New registration forms are being created and will be added to the website. If you have a child or grandchild to propose for **Junior Royalty**, please reach out to **Holli Hill** at (512) 653-1063 or juniroyalty@wslaustin.org. We will have plenty of room at the Fairmont for a large junior royalty court!

The postponement of the 66th Annual Jewel Ball will have a domino effect on the other fundraisers. Many thanks to the **Fashion Luncheon Chairs Jennifer Johnson, Lisa Tully** and **Elizabeth Rose** for their work in adjusting their plans. Due to rescheduling conflicts, the Fashion Luncheon will probably not be held on the day before the ball. However, plans are in the works to make the luncheon a memorable event that you won't want to miss!



The other rescheduled events include the **Jewel Tea** and **Soirée**. Thank you to **Molly Benson, Jewel Committee Chair**, and **Shannon Meroney, Soiree Chair**, for coordinating those special parties. Stay tuned for all the upcoming new dates!

The Red Haute children's fashion show will most likely be held in the spring this year with a fun, new theme. **Red Haute Chairs, Rebecca Gindele** and **Shannon Owen**, are excited to share their plans with you later in the year.

Thank you for your patience as we adjust our traditional events this year. In this time of shelter-in-place, we miss our **WSL** friends and look forward to our opportunities to support the **Austin Symphony Orchestra** next year with our fun-filled events.

WELCOME WSL NEW MEMBERS 2020-2021

Paula Ables	Myra Adkins	Ivory Anderson
Leila Banse	Belen Benavides	Karen Blackburn
Karen Blackburn	Tara Bonner	Sheridan Butler Binford
Stephanie Cook	Dominique Douglas	Rebekah Duke
Celeste Embrey	Carol Evanicky	Aimee Finney
Martita Fleming	Lynda Frey	Anne Marie Gonin
Mildred Hammond	Stephanie Hartman	Cara Hegge
Marissa Hogan	Lindsey Hustader	Katie Jackson
Monica Jones	Michelle Kangas	Mary-Ellen King
Kathryn Kivell	Brigid Kleber	Paula Lowe
Meghan Marshall	Mia McCord	Kam McCoy
Kimberly McHale	Liz Merkel	Robin Miller
Laura Molex	Brooke Morgan	Brenna Neal
Deanna Nesmith	Ilissa Nolan	Jessica Olson
Julie Orchid	Nicole Oria	Kate Paul
Elizabeth Poole	Jessica Ray	Karen Reagan
Paige Richards	Ashley Shanks	Briana Shepard
Julie Shields	Meredith Spears	Jami Stigliano
Lucy Tiblier	Leslie Watson	Erica Wilson

*Paid new members as of May 22, 2020

(President's Message continued from page 1)

Years ago, I was in a meeting run by **MariBen Ramsey**, an Austin treasure who I have always admired for her charitable work and hutzpah. She was trying to excite a room of volunteers to get out and shake some trees for financial support for whatever the cause was at that time. She said we should not be afraid to ask anyone for donations because (1) we're not asking for ourselves, we're asking for people who cannot ask for themselves and (2) the worst that can happen is someone says "no." The fact is, donors don't usually shoot the messenger.

While her lesson resonated with me, I understand it is a supremely difficult task to ask someone to cut loose with their cash. Today, having to ask for support while the economy is tanking AND people are actually getting sick appears like a hill much too steep to climb for any dedicated volunteer.

Nevertheless, there is no palliative alternative. It seems those in the non-profit world today have to put their British pants on to Keep Calm and Carry On. We have a job to do and really, we must attempt to stay on task for the day when we are not faced with the health and financial challenges we find at our doorstep now.

So, as members of this storied organization, for as long as we are able, we will put one foot in front of the other in an effort to continue our promised support of the **ASO**. We ask not for ourselves and we hope you are not bothered by this determination to continue WSL's mission. **WSL** is not tone-deaf to what is happening, but giving up isn't an option to choose for our beloved symphony and the many thousands of children we serve. We proudly choose resilience.

Is this vein, if you have or know a child that is able to participate in the **66th Annual Jewel Ball**, we would appreciate you nominating them at this time (forms are on the **WSL** website).

Furthermore, an important and easy way to help out today – donate to the **ASO Covid-19 Emergency Fund!** The **ASO** must continue to pay its obligations, even though the concerts have been canceled. Your donation to this Fund puts money into the pockets of our musicians (donations taken on the WSL website).



*The WSL Board is grateful to Red Haute Chairpersons
Tara Akins & Megan Haywood
and the entire Red Haute Committee for their efforts in making
our spring fundraiser a huge success.*

*Jene Bearse - Jennifer Bell - Tiffany Britton
Valerie Caldwell - Paula Draughn - Celeste Hubert
Susan Lambert Lindley - Julia Mull - Leslie Pardue
Stacy Reed - Kelly Reynolds - Carrie Semple - Sinem Szygenda*

Two WSL projects win coveted TASO Awards!

Each year the **Texas Association of Symphony Orchestras** recognizes projects across the state in these categories: education, fundraising, leadership/service, communications and technology. The winning projects are innovative in their support of the arts. The **WSL** was honored this year for our 2018 groundbreaking projects, the fabulous **Fall Fashion Luncheon** featuring **Tim Gunn**, and our highly successful **Strategic Recruiting Plan to Increase Revenue and Membership**.



From left, 2018 Fashion Luncheon Chairpersons **Jennifer Vinklerek** and **Meredith Wood**, speaker **Tim Gunn**, Chairperson **Rhonda Hissey**, and show producer, **Sue Webber**.



2018 New Member Recruitment Chairperson, **Shannon Meroney**.

Red Haute Revisited



9 February 2020

WSL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Nancy Buchsbaum joined **WSL** in 2012 when her sponsor, **Jan Bates**, recognized Nancy's capabilities and "can do" attitude and knew she would be a great addition to the organization. Nancy dove right in and began helping with financial development. Before our seamless new website which makes things like donor commitments and dues payments easy to collect, there was Nancy behind the scenes, manually running credit cards, depositing checks, and maintaining Excel spreadsheets! Her responsibility morphed over the years and she developed our WSL E-blast platform and was then instrumental in getting our fabulous new website up and running. She continues to maintain the front end of the website, but is looking for someone who may be interested in learning to help manage the website so that she can give more time to the exciting new endeavor that is brewing with her husband (**Knights of the Symphony** member), **Tom**. Nancy and Tom recently launched **Austin Craft Spirits**, a local Austin whiskey company that produces smooth, light-flavored whiskey distilled with Texas grains. Their "**Austin 101**" whiskey recently won Runner Up for the **People's Choice Award** at the **Texas Whiskey Festival!** They are in local stores and can be found at www.austin101whiskey.com. When Nancy isn't building an award-winning local whisky business and maintaining the WSL website, she enjoys time with her son and daughter, both in their twenties. **WSL** is grateful for the years of faithful, dedicated behind-the-scenes service Nancy has given to taking care of the financial commitments, developing our web and communication platforms, and more!



Nancy Buchsbaum

Linda's Chocolate Chess Pie

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1/2 cup butter | 3 eggs, beaten |
| 1 oz. unsweetened chocolate | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 1/2 cups sugar | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 2/3 cup evaporated milk | 9" pie shell, unbaked |

Place butter and chocolate in saucepan; heat until melted completely. Stir in sugar, evaporated milk, eggs, salt and vanilla. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Recipe contributed by Sarah Butler in "Enjoy!, Recipes from the WSL of Austin"



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